

## The War Paper for Women

# VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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### CONTENTS

	PAGE.
The Outlook .. .. .	209
Christmas Sale .. .. .	210
National Council for Adult Suffrage .. .. .	211
Composition of Speaker's Conference .. .. .	211
Converts to Woman Suffrage .. .. .	211
The Speaker's Conference. By Evelyn Sharp .. .. .	212
A Woman-Worker's View of Reconstruction. By Louise J. Davies .. .. .	213
United Suffragists .. .. .	214
Comparison of Punishments .. .. .	215
Press Comments on the Speaker's Conference .. .. .	215

### DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

### THE OUTLOOK

The Speaker's Conference met for the first time on Thursday, October 12, and, according to the Political Correspondent of the *Times*, will continue to meet at the House of Commons on Wednesday and Thursday in each week—presumably until it is able, in the words of the terms of reference, "to submit agreed resolutions" on certain specified points of Registration and Franchise Reform. We give the composition of the Conference on page 211, and deal with the whole matter in our leading article.

#### More Praise for Women

Praise of women's work and appeals for more of it go hand in hand in these days. General Sir William Robertson, making an appeal for women's work in a public speech on October 5, said:—

I have great faith in the women. I will not advise them how to do it, because they know their own business best. The women by universal consent have done splendidly in this war and have shown splendid fortitude in times of anxiety, sorrow, and bereavement, and they have worked hard, too.

Still more laudatory is the introductory note to the illustrated treatise, "Women's War Work," issued by the War Office (price 1s. net), in which the Adjutant-General to the Forces writes:—

This book is intended not only to indicate that women have shown themselves 'capable of successfully replacing the stronger sex in practically every calling, but is offered also as a tribute to their effective contribution to the Empire in its hour of need.

He further says that it is only by extending "the scope of women's usefulness," that "our country can hope to emerge victorious from a struggle without parallel in her long and glorious history." And we have but to turn to the *Board of Trade Gazette* to find these eulogies confirmed by figures showing the extent to which women are proving in almost every sphere their skill, physical endurance, and public spirit.

#### The Moral of It All

It is important, however, that women should not allow themselves to be blinded by mere praise. We as Suffragists welcome every indication that the world at large is recognising what Suffragists have always known to be true. But as Suffragists we must also strike a note of warning. In thousands of cases these super-

women, who are so "capable of successfully replacing the stronger sex," are being by no means paid the wages of the stronger sex. Thousands of women, as the *New Statesman* repeats (October 12), are engaged on Government war work (and legally prohibited from leaving it to better themselves), who are earning less than 3d. an hour, or 15s. a week. In the Government offices, thousands of women clerks are employed at lower salaries than the men they replace, and are receiving half the war bonus granted to men. In reply to a question in the House on this latter point, on October 17, Mr. McKinnon Wood advanced the old, old argument that men have dependants and women, presumably, have not!

#### Franchise and Reconstruction

Our note of warning is this: When the war ends and the men come home, employers, from the Government downwards, will be faced with the temptation to keep these women in employment because they are cheaper. The men will be faced with the temptation to force them out of industry altogether by Trade Union regulations. The *Times*, after the usual column of praise, said in a leading article recently that if this situation does arise, special factories will have to be built, staffed entirely by women. Do the men and women, who by their mutual effort are saving our country from destruction now, look forward to sully their splendid record, when peace is restored, by sex antagonism and industrial strife? We emphatically deny the existence of such a desire. But we cannot deny the possibility of such a development of the present influx of women into industry, if, at the end of the war, women are still politically helpless, and thousands of demobilised men find themselves equally (if only temporarily) deprived of their political rights. For this reason alone, apart from abstract justice, adult suffrage—a vote for every man and woman—becomes an imperative solution, not only of the Registration tangle, but of the industrial tangle that awaits us when the men come home again.

#### An Astonishing Memorial

A memorial appeared in the *Times* (October 23) signed by a number of women, demanding immediate compulsory notification and treatment of venereal disease. The signatories, though they include a few well-known names, are not those of people who are known to have made a study of this complex subject, and the memorial itself appears to have been drawn up by someone who has not troubled to read the report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases. This report, it will be remembered, was made by a number of experts, after hearing the evidence of a very much larger number of experts, and it condemned utterly the principle of compulsory notification and treatment, on the ground (chiefly) that compulsion, when applied to a disease regarded as "disgraceful," could only have the effect of driving it underground. People, to put it plainly, will not go to a doctor who is going to "notify" the fact that they are moral outcasts, and that is precisely how most people feel that they are regarded if they are known to be suffering in this way. It is astonishing to see the names of Suffragists among the signatories: that the Suffrage movement as a

whole will be firmly opposed to proposals which have not even the merit of being practical proposals, we feel no doubt whatever.

#### The C.D. Acts in Disguise

The memorial ignores the vast constructive proposals made by the Royal Commission for the provision, at the public cost, of facilities for diagnosis and treatment all over the country—centres for which have already been started with admirable promptitude by the Local Government Board. It states with truth that the danger comes chiefly, so far as it comes from women, from quite young girls, whom no one would suspect of infection; and it ignores the necessary corollary of compulsory medical examination of such girls, whose youth makes the horror of applying to them the principles of the old C.D. Acts worse than was ever contemplated when they were in force. It ignores the fact that we have neither the hospitals nor the doctors to deal in the way they suggest with the whole problem, and that inevitably the result will be the application of compulsion only to the helpless and the poor. In a word, what is proposed would amount to the restoration of the C.D. Acts under another name.

#### The Memorial Condemned

All this was recognised immediately on the publication of what the *Daily News* calls this "most ill-advised manifesto." An important letter, signed by Lord Sydenham, Lady Barrett, M.D. (Dr. Florence Willey), Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., the Bishop of Southwark, and other members of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, appeared in the Press the day after, pointing out that "notification must be futile unless accompanied by police measures for enforcing treatment, which could not be given until full facilities have been made available to all classes." This is, of course, the crux of the position, for women would have no guarantee that these police measures (involving compulsory examination) would not be put in force against the most helpless class of the community long before these "full facilities" for treatment had been made available to all. The United Suffragists also sent a letter, signed on behalf of their Executive by Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mr. Albert Dawson, and Mr. Henry W. Nevinnson, to Mr. Walter Long, asking for an assurance that the Local Government Board would have nothing to do with proposals that would go far to render abortive the valuable work of the Board in establishing free treatment centres.

#### The Mansion House Meeting

At the Mansion House meeting, convened by the Lord Mayor on October 24, both Mr. Walter Long and Mr. Herbert Samuel dismissed the idea of compulsory notification as harmful and impracticable, a line that was even more emphasized by Lady Barrett, M.D. Mr. Long's account of the free treatment centres already established, or in course of being established, contained much hope for the future. But the Home Secretary's evident inclination to support two other schemes for dealing with the problem of venereal disease, which he stated were under consideration by the Government, struck a note of danger for women. One of these is a scheme to make it possible for



infected persons, already under detention for some other purpose (which would generally mean prison), to be detained until cured; the other is a suggestion that infected persons, when discharged from hospital or prison, should be given a paper stating their condition, which would render them liable to heavy penalties if they were arrested later for soliciting. It can be seen that both these proposals, if adopted, would work out to the persecution of the prostitute almost to the exclusion of any other class. What is worse, a step in this direction has already been taken—we know not with what powers—by a London magistrate, who (as reported by the *Times* of October 25) ordered two prostitutes, on the strength of a report on their condition from the prison doctor, to be sent to the infirmary for a lengthy period under probation, and to remain there (whatever that may mean), or to find surties, which, being what they were, would probably be an impossible condition. We urge upon our readers to study for themselves the Report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, or the shilling summary of it (obtainable from the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, Kingsway House, Kingsway, W.C.), and also the literature published by the National Association for Moral Hygiene (19, Tothill Street, S.W.) in order that they may be in a position to agitate by every means in their power against this plausible but sinister campaign to undo the work of Josephine Butler and her followers at the present day. Miss Maude Royden will contribute an article on the subject to the December number of *VOTES FOR WOMEN*, issued on November 30.

#### War and Juvenile Crime

We do not think anything effectual will be done to check juvenile crime, on which a Conference was held at the Home Office on October 24, until it is officially recognised that a child is a child. Boys not only will be boys, but are boys. If you take them away from school and turn them into wage-earners, it is no wonder that the result, not only upon those particular boys but also upon their fellows who are still at school, is precocity instead of normal growth. And this, joined to the high spirits of youth, manufactures a young rebel who is given the high-sounding name of "juvenile criminal"—in itself an incentive to lawlessness, human nature being what it is. The measures suggested by Mr. Herbert Samuel, good enough in themselves, will not touch the root of the evil, which lies in the abnormal circumstances of the boys' lives, aggravated of course by the war. When the State allows the childhood of the working classes to last as long as that of the leisured classes, we shall hear no more of juvenile crime.

#### Suffrage Extended in the Empire

Women have been raised to citizenship in another great province of the Empire. In British Columbia our cause has won, and this vast district of Canada is now added to Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba as a realm of freedom for women. It was won by referendum, giving a majority of over two to one in favour, and it must be remembered that the province measures 355,855 square miles. The victory marks a complete change of great rapidity in Parliamentary and public opinion. Three years ago the Premier of the Provincial Parliament refused to have a Suffrage Bill introduced by any but a private member, and we know by long experience how futile that is. Now the President stated that if a referendum were taken on soldiers' votes, a referendum on women's votes must be included. In Canada, therefore, the four provinces above mentioned (with a population of about 2,000,000) possess the full franchise for the provincial parliaments, while in Ontario, Quebec, and Yukon women have the municipal franchise only, and Newfoundland remains the only thoroughly "Anti" district (except the North-west Territory, where no one in particular has a vote at all). In British Columbia women will record their votes next March for the first time.

#### Women Now Voting

For the moment the Referendum is playing rather a large part in the Suffrage—not, indeed, as a test for granting or refusing it as in British Columbia, but because women belong-

ing to free countries are now exercising their right by referendum. Here, in London, for instance, we have seen the Australian nurses voting side by side with the "Anzacs" at the Australian Imperial Forces Headquarters in Westminster. For the vital question of conscription has been laid before Australian voters as a special or "referendum" subject to be decided by majority. In Denmark also the vital and Imperial question of the proposed sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States for £5,000,000 is to be made a referendum. A Parliamentary Commission (limited to six weeks in happy Denmark!) is to report, stating the case for and against, and a fortnight later a referendum will be taken, the women of Denmark voting for the first time since their enfranchisement in the summer of last year. If 50 per cent. of the electorate vote against the proposal, the United States will be informed that it is dropped. In Iceland, where enfranchisement was gained at the same date, women have already voted for the first time, by electing the Upper House of the Althing, or Parliament, this September.

#### Items of Interest

Mrs. Kate Dwyer, leader of the Labour women of New South Wales, has been appointed a life member of the Senate of the University of Sydney—the first woman to hold such a post in the British Dominions.

Three thousand women are now employed at the pit-heads of the Lothian collieries.

In Victoria, where women police have now been appointed, the Women's Political Association are demanding that their pay shall be raised to that of men police.

The Portsmouth Town Council has rejected the proposal to appoint two women police. Their decision was called "a monstrous mistake" by one of the speakers.

The Queen opened on October 2 the new wing of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of

Medicine for Women. This hospital was the first in London to open its wards to women students, an example which has been followed during the war by Charing Cross Hospital, St. Mary's, and St. George's.

Another important event in connection with women doctors is the admission of women medical students in Edinburgh, for the first time, to the lecture courses in nearly all the medical classes, thus bringing Edinburgh University into line with the other Scottish Universities.

#### TO UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

##### Please to Remember

1. The 9th of November—U.S. "At Home." Speakers, Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., Miss Evelyn Sharp. (See page 211.)
2. The 23rd of November—U.S. "At Home." Speakers, Miss Harriet Newcomb, Mrs. Ayrton Gould. (See page 211.)
3. The 26th of November—Dramatic Recital in aid of United Suffragists' Women's Club. (See page 214.)
4. The 30th of November—Issue of December number of *VOTES FOR WOMEN*.
5. The 2nd of December—Christmas Sale in aid of the U.S. Women's Club. (See below.)

#### Have You Bought

## "MOTHERS IN MEAN STREETS"

By ANNA MARTIN

(With Introduction by GERALD GOULD) ?

If not, send at once to HON. SECRETARY, United Suffragists, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C., for one copy, Price Twopence, Post Free Threepence; or 12 copies, Post Free Two Shillings.

## CHRISTMAS SALE

The Christmas Sale in aid of the funds of the United Suffragists' Women's Club will take place as announced on Saturday, December 2, in the Central Hall, Westminster, 3—9 p.m. As we are having only a one-day Sale this year, we hope all our friends will take note of this date and make no other engagement for that afternoon and evening. Further, since our paper no longer appears weekly, we urge upon our readers to pay special attention to this announcement, and to set to work as soon as possible to provide the stalls with a good stock of saleable articles.

#### The Opening

Everyone will be glad to hear that Lady Forbes-Robertson, whose name appeals to so large a public on both sides of the Atlantic, has consented to open the Sale. Visitors are asked to come early, that they may not miss this opportunity of giving a welcome to one who has meant so much to the Suffrage movement and to the drama, two spheres which know no class and no nationality.

#### The Stalls

The following Stalls are already appropriated:—

**Books:**—Mrs. Sylvia Lynd, Miss Violet Hunt, Miss Christine Silver.

**Provisions:**—Hampstead and Golders Green U.S.

**Christmas Cards and Calendars:**—Kensington U.S.

**Shilling Stall:**—Kensington U.S.

**Toys:**—Mrs. Schutze and Mrs. Whelen.

**Embroidery:**—Mrs. Craies.

**Oriental Goods:**—Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck.

**Sweets:**—Mrs. Goodman.

**General Stall:**—Women's Club members.

We call special attention to the General Stall, where the goods will be provided by members of the Women's Club itself, all of whom are collecting articles, from a pot of jam or a cake to a pin cushion or a soldiers' tie, in

order to help in the upkeep of the Club that has been a meeting-place to them all through the War.

#### Refreshments

Miss Walford, who has kindly undertaken the refreshments, appeals for help in money and kind. Tea, coffee, and cakes are especially wanted.

#### Side Shows

We shall have many attractive side-shows, as well as the stalls. Miss K. E. Olver and Miss Ethel Everett, whose work is well-known to all readers of *VOTES FOR WOMEN*, have again offered to do lightning sketches; Miss Constance Walton will give her services as a palmist; Mrs. de Morgan will tell fortunes, and we have been promised an invisible band!

#### Admission

The price of admission will be 7d., from 3—6 p.m.; from 6—9 p.m., free. Tickets bought before December 2 will be 6d. only, the war tax being paid by the U.S. on tickets bought in advance. Members are urged to lose no time in practising this particular war-economy by buying their tickets at once.

#### Thanks

Thanks are due to the following for gifts and promises: Miss Kerby and Miss Eleanor Tyrrell, books; Mrs. Sharboro, 1s.; Miss Janet Mardon, 5s.

All communications regarding the sale to be addressed to Miss Brewster, at the U.S. Offices, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C., who is organising it.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES

At the time of going to press, the following Societies have agreed to take Stalls, the proceeds in their case being devoted to their own funds: The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Church League for Women's Suffrage, the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage, the International Suffrage Shop, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (Russian unit), the Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U., the Women's Freedom League, the Women's International League.



## NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADULT SUFFRAGE

Votes for All Men and Women!

The National Council for Adult Suffrage (27, Chancery Lane, W.C.), whose formation we announced last month, has prepared a memorandum to be submitted to the 'Speakers' Conference, setting forth the arguments for the establishment of a simple franchise for every man and every woman as the only solution of the present Registration tangle. Application has also been made by the Hon. Secretaries of the N.C.A.S. (Miss K. D. Courtney and Mr. J. S. Middleton) to send witnesses to be heard by the Conference in support of the memorandum.

Among the Societies and Local Groups already affiliated to the National Council for Adult Suffrage are the London Committee for Adult Suffrage, which held a most successful mass meeting in the Euston Theatre on October 8; and the United Suffragists.

The following are some of the members of the Council: Councillor Margaret Ashton, Mr. Arnold Bennett, Miss Janet Case, the Dean of Worcester, Mr. J. A. Hobson, Mrs. Hertha Ayrton, Mrs. Annot Robinson, the Bishop of Hereford, Dr. Clifford, Mr. C. Roden Buxton, Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mrs. E. Webb, Dr. Barbara Tchaykowsky, Mrs. Boyce, Dr. Elizabeth Bolton, Miss Anna Martin, Mr. Frank Smith, L.C.C.

## THE SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE

The composition of the Speaker's Conference, now sitting to consider Franchise and Registration reform, is as follows:—

Marquess of Salisbury, Earl Grey, Lord Southwark, Viscount Gladstone, Lord Burnham, Sir Ryland Adkins, Right Hon. Sir Frederick Banbury, Sir John Bethell, Sir William Bull, Colonel James Craig, Colonel Page Croft, Mr. Ellis Davies, Right Hon. W. H. Dickinson, Right Hon. Sir R. Finlay, Mr. Goldstone, Colonel Sir Robert Williams, Mr. Maurice Healy, Right Hon. George Lambert, Sir J. Larmer, Mr. Macmaster, Mr. J. Mooney, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Peto, Mr. Pringle, Right Hon. Sir Harry Samuel, Mr. Scanlan, Mr. MacCallum Scott, Right Hon. Sir John Simon, Mr. Turton, Mr. Stephen Walsh, Mr. Wardle, Mr. Aneurin Williams.

The Conference met for the first time on Thursday, October 12, and is said to intend to meet on Wednesday and Thursday in each week until its report is ready. Our comments on the terms of reference will be found in our leading article on page 212.

## CONVERTS TO WOMAN SUFFRAGE

Sir Edward Donner

Interesting conversions to woman suffrage continue to be announced from day to day. Sir Edward Donner, on whom the freedom of the city of Manchester was conferred the other day, spoke at a luncheon at the Manchester Reform Club on changes that had been brought about by the war. Among these he mentioned his own conversion to woman suffrage. The war, he said, had thrown an extraordinary light on women's capability, and on that account alone he thought women had established an enormous claim to be allowed to take a share in the management of the country's affairs.

A Celebrated Novelist

Mr. Horace Annesley Vachell contributed an article to the *Star* (October 20), in which he gives many reasons why women should be enfranchised. He says:—

I feel about women as the pioneers of America felt about the wives who crossed the Plains, braving innumerable perils and terrors. . . . What can we do for them after the war?

Surely there will be a new appraisal of women by men, a more generous appreciation, a livelier sympathy, a sincere recognition of them as equals and co-workers. Let them be enfranchised in every sense of the word! This means much more than the gift of the vote.

Mr. Vachell also believes that women are the natural peacemakers. "Peace is almost in sight," he says. "Whether or not it remains a blessed and permanent condition depends, so I now believe, upon the women of our mighty Empire."

## THE CAMPAIGN

**Friday, October 27; 7.30 p.m.—Suffrage Conference.**—Minor Association Hall, Mount Street, Manchester. To discuss the Parliamentary Situation. Speakers: Madam Hope Squire (Chair), Mr. H. W. Nevinnson, Rev. Hatty Baker, Mr. J. Beanland.

**Monday, October 30; 7.30 p.m.—Annual Meeting.**—Bolton U.S.

**Tuesday, October 31; 8 p.m.—Open Meeting.**—U.S. Women's Club, 92, Borough Road, S.E. Speaker: Miss Evelyn Sharp.

**Sunday, November 5; 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting.**—Council Schools, Ashford. Speakers: Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mr. John Marsh, and others.

**Tuesday, November 7; 8 p.m.—Open Meeting.**—U.S. Women's Club. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9; 8 p.m.—U.S. AT HOME.—CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER. SPEAKERS: MISS EVELYN SHARP ON "THE POLITICAL SITUATION;" MISS SUSAN LAWRENCE, L.C.C., ON "THE INDUSTRIAL POSITION OF WOMEN."**

**Friday, November 10; 7.45 p.m.—Open Meeting.**—Onward Buildings, Manchester. Mr. Grierson on "The Ancoats Holiday School."

**Tuesday, November 14; 7.30 p.m.—At Home.**—Suffrage Club, 18, Colquitt Street, Liverpool. Music and speeches by U.S. members.

**Tuesday, November 14; 8 p.m.—Open Meeting.**—U.S. Women's Club. Speaker: Nurse Gilpin.

**Saturday, November 18; 3.30 p.m.—At Home.**—The Library, Prince Arthur's Road, Hampstead. Speakers: Mrs. Zangwill, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

**Tuesday, November 21; 8 p.m.—Open Meeting.**—U.S. Women's Club. Speaker: Mrs. Gregory.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23; 8 p.m.—U.S. AT HOME.—CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER. SPEAKERS: MRS. AYRTON GOULD ON "THE POLITICAL SITUATION;" MISS HARRIET NEWCOMB ON "THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT IN DOMINIONS OVERSEAS."**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26; 3.30 p.m.—DRAMATIC RECITAL BY MISS CLARA REED.—REHEARSAL THEATRE, MAIDEN LANE, W.C. IN AID OF U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB.—TICKETS 2/8, 1/2, 7d. (WHICH MUST BE BOUGHT BEFOREHAND), FROM MISS BREWSTER, 27, CHANCERY LANE, W.C.**

**Tuesday, November 28; 8 p.m.—Open Meeting.**—U.S. Women's Club.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2; 3-9 p.m.—CHRISTMAS SALE IN AID OF U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB. CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.—BILLS AND PARTICULARS FROM MISS BREWSTER, 27, CHANCERY LANE, W.C.**

## HAVE YOU JOINED THE U.S.?

At this juncture the pressure that Suffrage Societies are able to bring to bear upon the Government varies according to the membership of these organizations. A body of 2,000 Suffragists, however sound in its principles and practical in its political outlook, has less weight with the Government, the Speaker's Conference, and the political Parties generally, than a body of 3,000 Suffragists, and so on.

Inside Only—No Room Outside!

We constantly hear of people who speak with enthusiasm of the work of the United Suffragists, agree with their political outlook, and are in sympathy with their propaganda. But these friends to whom we refer are *not* members of the U.S. Why not? Perhaps because they have not been directly approached, perhaps because they do not realise the importance of giving this practical evidence of their support, perhaps because they cherish the familiar illusion that they "can help more by remaining outside the movement."


These are the people that this appeal is intended to reach. Numbers count immensely at this moment. One member of the U.S. can do twice the work of a non-member, because he or she can do the work of an individual as well as that of the unit of a great organization. The work and influence of the United Suffragists could be increased tenfold if their membership included all those outside supporters.

We therefore make the two following appeals:—

1. That all men and women, who think that all men and women should have votes in order to ensure the election of the Parliament of Reconstruction by the whole people, shall fill in and send to Headquarters the membership form to be found on page 212.

2. That existing members of the U.S. shall cut out this form, and get it filled in and sent up by a new member.

More forms can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, United Suffragists, 27, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.



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Societies taking part: Free Church League for Women's Suffrage; Friends of Armenia; Independent W.S.P.U.; Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U.; United Suffragists; Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement and the Women's Market Garden supply.

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## VOTES FOR WOMEN

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NOVEMBER, 1916.

### THE SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE

While British guns are thundering at the Front and British men and women are absorbed in a mutual effort to meet with courage all that war brings in its train both to combatant and civilian, a Conference has been called at Westminster to consider questions of human right and human liberty.

#### The Task Before the Thirty-Two

What are these thirty-two men going to make of the opportunity that the war, contrary to all expectations, has placed in their hands? That is what suffragists of all kinds are anxiously asking. Are they going to make an historic occasion of a situation that has arisen, curiously enough, out of the confusion in the Parliamentary Register caused by the military and industrial exigencies of the moment? Or will they see in it merely a technical problem to be solved by a minimum of change in the existing machinery for recording the "people's" votes? The terms of reference, as stated by Mr. Bonar Law in the House of Commons on October 10, are in themselves wide enough to admit of a generous interpretation of the task that is before the Conference. They are "To examine and, if possible, submit agreed resolutions on the following matters:—

- Reform of the Franchise.
- Basis for Redistribution of Seats.
- Reform of the system of the registration of electors.
- Method of elections and the manner in which the costs of elections should be borne."

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It is common knowledge that the wages paid to women are an outrage to this country. I speak of the money paid to women for what is generally known as women's work—the wages paid before the war. Now matters have very greatly improved, and most of us get a living wage. Why? Because we are doing men's work. My object is not to discuss the wages paid to women during war time—because the work which they are doing and the wages they are receiving in payment are purely temporary, and any conclusion based on them would be misleading—but to discuss the wages of women generally before the war, and to ask whether matters are going to be allowed to remain the same after the war.

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It does not seem to occur to an employer that a woman has to live. The embroideress, starting as an apprentice at what is called a pocket-money wage of 2s. 6d. per week, works from 8.30 in the morning to 7.30 in the evening, and year by year her wages slowly and painfully increase until at the end of ten years she is receiving 17s. 6d. per week. She is now doing skilled work—work of which it has taken her ten years to become mistress, and she receives the princely sum of 17s. 6d. per week. Is there a working man in the whole of the country who, having been apprenticed to his trade, and having worked at it for ten years, does not get a living wage? Then, too, there is the season when the embroideress is on "half time," when she receives half pay—8s. 9d. per week. How is a woman to live on such a wage? She does not. She depends upon her people, and when they are no longer alive to support her, goodness knows what becomes of her! This sort of slavery is one of the evils which I feel certain would be remedied if women took a part in legislation.

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"But then a girl cannot expect to occupy a high position and command a good salary, because she does not intend to remain in business all her life—she will marry." For too long now injustice to women has been hidden under the cloak of this known fallacy. Even in normal conditions it was well-known that every girl could not marry. Now, with the war hourly depleting the ranks of our young manhood, it seems that marriage will be the exception, not the rule. Women must support themselves, and labour conditions must be such as to enable them to do so.

## Back to Starvation Wages

No one can predict precisely what will happen on the proclamation of peace, but we do know that the men will be coming back to their peaceful occupations in large numbers. What is to become of the women who are now occupying those positions, and, as I have said, being reasonably remunerated? They will go back to their former avocations. The girl 'bus conductor, the postman, the munition worker, will return to their old places in the tea-shop, the warehouse, the dress-making establishment, or to whatever calling they left to fill the soldiers' posts. Will they return for the same paltry wages, the same unfair conditions and lack of prospects? Yes, they will, unless some action is taken now to prevent their doing so. There will be no alternative. In the past, a woman was not paid a living wage because her responsibilities were assumed to be less than those of a man. In the days that are coming, a woman's responsibilities are going to be equal to a man's. She will have to support herself and to do it decently. She must be given some prospect in life to stimulate her to further efforts on her own behalf, now that the prospect of marriage has been taken from her; she is no longer to be denied the open road to progress merely because she is a woman. Her work is as valuable as a man's. Her ability as a needlewoman—a fairly common occupation among women—is necessary to the conduct of trade, as will be recognised by the great West End establishments. Her work as a shop assistant, and her work in the much-maligned capacity of shorthand-writer and typist, is equally wanted in the industrial world. It is not necessary to discuss the length the different classes of occupation in which women find employment. A little thought will convince the most prejudiced that women's work is at least deserving of a living wage, and that is one point gained.

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Then, apart from mere wages, why is a woman debarred from entering the most interesting and remunerative professions? Why cannot a woman become a chartered accountant, a solicitor, or a barrister? Merely because men say she must not. In effect, the man says, You must not enter any but the worst paid and most uninteresting of callings. You must wait upon me and serve me. If it please me, I will perhaps tell you that you shall marry me and dwell with me as my equal, but you shall never do any of the highest and most interesting work, you shall have no prospect in life save that which I my-

self obtain and share with you, and your greatest aspiration shall be to watch and further my career.

This war has shown us that a woman is able to take a place at the side of man as his equal, not his servant. I say that with the end of this war there is a danger that this stride we have taken forward, quite by accident, will not bring us to the point which I feel certain we might reach. We want to make the most of that stride, taken in the darkness of the first horror and confusion at the commencement of the war. The glory which the victorious end of the war may bring to us need not be overclouded by the defeat of the woman worker.

## Stand by the Suffragists!

We have realised a great fact in the course of the last two years. We have realised that woman has a distinct and separate existence from man; that she has abilities and ambitions with which she never was credited before; and what we have to determine now is that there shall be no retrogression. When the men come home their places will at once be surrendered to them. On that point there can be no hesitation; but the ordinary occupation of a woman is also worthy of a living wage. It is every woman's duty—now, before the war is at an end, before she returns to her old occupation—to take some steps to assure herself that a living wage shall be obtainable. What is she to do? Let her give the matter a little thought; let her try to follow the aims and objects of those who are endeavouring to bring about the political emancipation of women; let her give them her whole-hearted support. She must discuss the position with her fellow workers, do her level best to make the gravity of the position felt, and to secure for herself and the great throng of women workers fair conditions of labour, reasonable remuneration, independence, and decent prospects after the war.

## A WAR ECONOMY

### For Social Reformers and Reconstructionists

Economy may be applied both to time and money. The ideal of thrift is to save both. Here is one way in which this ideal may be attained.

All whose thoughts are turned towards the building up of a new world at the end of the war must already be occupying themselves with the collection of facts and data relating to industrial problems, social problems, political problems, as these arise from time to time under the altered conditions of war time. This labour must involve a constant searching and purchase of newspapers, Parliamentary Reports, pamphlets, and other literature dealing with the subject—unless satisfactory summaries of these can be obtained.

One such summary is to be found in the pages of VOTES FOR WOMEN. We endeavour in these pages, as far as space allows, to summarise monthly many of these problems as they affect women particularly, and to indicate where fuller details can be obtained if required. Thus, by reading VOTES FOR WOMEN regularly, social reformers can economise both in time and money, where one aspect at least of reconstruction is concerned.

## HOW TO ORDER THE PAPER

To ensure receiving the paper regularly (it appears on the last Thursday in every month), fill in and cut out the order form on the back page of this issue, and send it, with 2s., to the Publisher, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C.



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27, CHANCERY LANE, W.C.

Telegraphic Address:—Unisuffra, Holb., London  
Telephone:—Holborn 5880

NOVEMBER, 1916.

### THE SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE

While British guns are thundering at the Front and British men and women are absorbed in a mutual effort to meet with courage all that war brings in its train both to combatant and civilian, a Conference has been called at Westminster to consider questions of human right and human liberty.

#### The Task Before the Thirty-Two

What are these thirty-two men going to make of the opportunity that the war, contrary to all expectations, has placed in their hands? That is what suffragists of all kinds are anxiously asking. Are they going to make an historic occasion of a situation that has arisen, curiously enough, out of the confusion in the Parliamentary Register caused by the military and industrial exigencies of the moment? Or will they see in it merely a technical problem to be solved by a minimum of change in the existing machinery for recording the "people's" votes? The terms of reference, as stated by Mr. Bonar Law in the House of Commons on October 10, are in themselves wide enough to admit of a generous interpretation of the task that is before the Conference. They are "To examine and, if possible, submit agreed resolutions on the following matters:—

- Reform of the Franchise.
- Basis for Redistribution of Seats.
- Reform of the system of the registration of electors.
- Method of elections and the manner in which the costs of elections should be borne."

It is the first of these questions that bulks largest, of course, in the minds of suffragists. Readers of **VOTES FOR WOMEN** are aware that the Society of which it is the organ consider that the Suffrage movement has reached a point at which the voting rights of women can no longer be dissociated from the voting rights of men. The United Suffragists believe that the enormous displacements of men in camp and factory render manhood suffrage the only practical solution of the Registration problem, and therefore that womanhood suffrage—"the same terms as men"—becomes the only practical solution of the woman suffrage question. That is the technical side of the matter. But there is also another side to it. The war has put, not only the electoral machinery into the melting pot, but also the human relationships on which electoral machinery must finally be based; not only the Register, but also the old distinctions of class and sex and party, which were responsible for so many of the anomalies in the old voters' lists. It is impossible, they feel, to grapple effectively with the reform of

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Then, apart from mere wages, why is a woman debarred from entering the most interesting and remunerative professions? Why cannot a woman become a chartered accountant, a solicitor, or a barrister? Merely because men say she must not. In effect, the man says, You must not enter any but the worst paid and most uninteresting of callings. You must wait upon me and serve me. If it please me, I will perhaps tell you that you shall marry me and dwell with me as my equal, but you shall never do any of the highest and most interesting work, you shall have no prospect in life save that which I my-

self obtain and share with you, and your greatest aspiration shall be to watch and further my career.

This war has shown us that a woman is able to take a place at the side of man as his equal, not his servant. I say that with the end of this war there is a danger that this stride we have taken forward, quite by accident, will not bring us to the point which I feel certain we might reach. We want to make the most of that stride, taken in the darkness of the first horror and confusion at the commencement of the war. The glory which the victorious end of the war may bring to us need not be overclouded by the defeat of the woman worker.

## Stand by the Suffragists!

We have realised a great fact in the course of the last two years. We have realised that woman has a distinct and separate existence from man; that she has abilities and ambitions with which she never was credited before; and what we have to determine now is that there shall be no retrogression. When the men come home their places will at once be surrendered to them. On that point there can be no hesitation; but the ordinary occupation of a woman is also worthy of a living wage. It is every woman's duty—now, before the war is at an end, before she returns to her old occupation—to take some steps to assure herself that a living wage shall be obtainable. What is she to do? Let her give the matter a little thought; let her try to follow the aims and objects of those who are endeavouring to bring about the political emancipation of women; let her give them her whole-hearted support. She must discuss the position with her fellow workers, do her level best to make the gravity of the position felt, and to secure for herself and the great throng of women workers fair conditions of labour, reasonable remuneration, independence, and decent prospects after the war.

## A WAR ECONOMY

### For Social Reformers and Reconstructionists

Economy may be applied both to time and money. The ideal of thrift is to save both. Here is one way in which this ideal may be attained.

All whose thoughts are turned towards the building up of a new world at the end of the war must already be occupying themselves with the collection of facts and data relating to industrial problems, social problems, political problems, as these arise from time to time under the altered conditions of war time. This labour must involve a constant searching and purchase of newspapers, Parliamentary Reports, pamphlets, and other literature dealing with the subject—unless satisfactory summaries of these can be obtained.

One such summary is to be found in the pages of VOTES FOR WOMEN. We endeavour in these pages, as far as space allows, to summarise monthly many of these problems as they affect women particularly, and to indicate where fuller details can be obtained if required. Thus, by reading VOTES FOR WOMEN regularly, social reformers can economise both in time and money, where one aspect at least of reconstruction is concerned.

## HOW TO ORDER THE PAPER

To ensure receiving the paper regularly (it appears on the last Thursday in every month), fill in and cut out the order form on the back page of this issue, and send it, with 2s., to the Publisher, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C.



# UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

27, Chancery Lane, London, W.C. Telephone, Holborn 5880

## IMPORTANT NOTICE!

### To United Suffragists Only

The attention of members of the U.S. is drawn to the section entitled "Executive Committee" on page 2 of the Constitution and Rules of the United Suffragists. In pursuance of the rules there laid down I hereby give notice that nominations for candidates for the Executive Committee (1917) must reach me not later than December 20, this being not less than three clear weeks before the Council meeting to be held in January next.

The following members of the Executive Committee are due for retirement in January next:—Mrs. Ayrton Gould, Miss Brewster, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mr. Charles Gray, Mr. H. W. Nevinston, Mr. John Scurr. Of these, Mrs. Ayrton Gould, Miss Brewster, Miss Evelyn Sharp and Mr. H. W. Nevinston offer themselves for re-election. The candidates nominated by the Executive Committee for the two remaining vacancies are Mr. Laurence Housman and Mr. George Lansbury.

Members are reminded that candidates may be nominated by Branches or by a nomination signed by five members of the Society; also that candidates must have been members of the Society for at least six months previous to the date of election.

Every member of the Society who has paid his or her membership fee of 1s. (minimum) will be able to vote for members of the Executive. Will those, therefore, who have neglected to do this, at once send me their fees for 1916?

(Signed) **Bertha Brewster**  
(Hon. Secretary).

## DRAMATIC RECITAL

### In Aid of the Women's Club

Miss Clara Reed, of the Poetic Players (President, Miss Edith Craig), has very generously offered to give an entertainment in aid of the U.S. Women's Club. It will take place in the Rehearsal Theatre (21, Maiden Lane, Strand) on Sunday, November 26, at 3.30. The programme will include selections from the following plays:—

"Herod" and "Ulysses" (Stephen Phillips).  
"The Pretenders" (Ibsen).  
"King René's Daughter" (Theodore Martin).  
"Maria Stuart" (Schiller).  
"Pelléas et Mélisande" (Maeterlinck).  
Classical Dances by Mlle. Binda.  
Greek Dances by Miss Winifred Vye.  
Songs.

Full particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, United Suffragists, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C.

As no tickets can be sold at the doors, members are urged to apply to this office at once (2s. 8d., 1s. 2d., and 7d.).

## U.S. "AT HOMES"

The first of the autumn "At Homes" held by the United Suffragists in the Central Hall, Westminster (Committee Room B., Matthew Parker Street), on Thursday, October 12, was a great success. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence took the Chair, and led up to the address that followed with an interesting account of the educational experiment that is being tried at the "Little Commonwealth" in Dorset. Miss Muriel Maters then spoke on "New Ideals in Education," confining her remarks to the Montessori system; and a lively discussion followed, showing that these meetings are of use to many who want more light thrown upon social problems at the present time.

The second "At Home," at which Mr. Henry W. Nevinston is speaking from the Chair on "The Political Situation," and Miss Anna Martin is discussing "The 'Bad' Mother," will take place on the day this issue appears, October 26.

We hope there will be a good attendance of members and friends at the two November "At

Homes," particulars of which appear in the Campaign list on page 211.

## U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB

92, Borough Road, S.E.

Secretary, Miss M. R. Cochrane. Tel.: Hop 4172

The Club is looking very bright and cheery with our red winter curtains. Owing to the lighting regulations we have had to spend 8s. 6d. on curtains. We shall be very glad if any of our friends would like to give them to us. Our weekly meetings have been well attended. In addition, Miss Tubb, who was out in Serbia with Mrs. Stobart's unit, came and told us about her work there. We were very much interested, and glad to be able to give her 8s. 6d. for the Serbian women. We have had some splendid concerts. Mrs. Whelen has very kindly offered to give us a monthly concert, and very much we enjoyed the first one she gave us on October 19. Our thanks are also due to Miss Brown, Miss Walford, and Mr. Threadgold for concerts. We still want a regular helper for Friday evenings from 6 to 9, who will give an hour's reading to the members. Miss Russell, who offered to come, has had to give it up on account of illness.

Our Club Stall for the Bazaar is going to contain all kinds of useful things which everybody wants.

We wish to thank the following: Mrs. Harben, £2 for butter; per; Miss Postlethwaite, 9s.; Miss Mears, curtains; and others for parcels of clothes. We want blouses, coats and skirts, boots and shoes very badly. We realised £2 from a small sale held on October 9.

## BIRMINGHAM U.S.

Hon. Sec.: Miss Julia Green, 13, Suffolk Street

The Social held at Queen's College on September 30 was a success from beginning to end. An enjoyable programme of music and dancing was provided, and the Birmingham Branch wishes to thank most cordially all the performers who so kindly gave their services. Its grateful thanks are also due to the hostesses and the promoters of it, Mrs. and Miss Gristwood and our Hon. Sec., Miss Julia Green.

## GLASGOW U.S.

Hon. Sec. (pro tem.): Mrs. Macaulay, 44, Albert Drive, Crosshill, Glasgow

A sparsely attended members' meeting was held in the office on October 2, at which the rules for the Branch were discussed and passed, and two auditors elected—Miss Jane Thomson and Miss Barrowman. The Corporation having agreed to receive a deputation from the U.S. on October 5 re the question of equal wages for men and women employed by the Tramway Department, the Women's Freedom League asked if some of their members could accompany them, and offered Miss Sheenan as a speaker. This was agreed to, and the deputation, consisting of fourteen ladies, was introduced by Councillor Charlton, and had a sympathetic reception from the Lord Provost and Council. Mrs. Crawford and Miss Sheenan were the speakers, and Mrs. Nixon proposed the vote of thanks. The members of the Deputation were then invited to tea in the City Chambers.

## HAMPSTEAD AND GOLDS' GREEN U.S.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss Daisy Solomon, 64, Pattison Road, N.W.; Miss Dorothy Pethick, 39, Meadow Court, Golders' Green, N.W.

A Members' Rally was held on Saturday, October 14, by kind invitation of Mrs. Binnie, and a good response was made to the appeal of the chairman, Miss Margaret Thompson, for help for the forthcoming Sale. Will all members who were not able to be present kindly send in their offers of help in money, kind, or services to the Secretaries as soon as possible? Will members please note that an At Home will be given in the Library, Prince Arthur's Road, on Saturday, November 18, at 3.30, when the speakers will be Mrs. Zangwill and Mr. Pethick Lawrence. Please bring friends!

## KENSINGTON U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Postlethwaite, 47a, Earl's Court Road, W. Telephone: 926 Western

Will members please help as much as possible to stock our general stall at the Xmas Sale? Everything will be priced 1s. Money, presents, and suggestions are all badly needed. The Holland Press is taking the Xmas Card and Calendar Stall. Miss White, who has given up her post in this neighbourhood, will be a great loss to paper-selling; she was always to be relied upon every Thursday evening, when the new number came out; she has sold for many years in all weathers. Special thanks are due to Miss Gackowski for 10s. 6d. and to Miss Burke for 6s. 6d.; these subscriptions are a great help towards keeping the work going in Kensington. Thanks to Dr. Haslem for jumble sale garments, and to Mrs. Morrison for 2s. towards the stall.

## LETCWORTH U.S.

Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruth Pym, 2, Meadow Way Green, Letcworth

It has been decided to hold monthly meetings of the Society, sometimes in conjunction with other

suffrage societies in the place. The first of these will be held on Saturday, November 4, at Howgills, in co-operation with the International Women's League. Papers will be read by Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Garrod, and Miss Reynolds on the Suffrage issues raised in the Council meetings of the League.

## LIVERPOOL U.S.

Hon. Sec.: Miss Isabel Buxton, 111, Queen's Road

The Women's Suffrage Club have kindly offered us an evening at 18, Colquitt Street, on Tuesday, November 14, commencing at 7.30. There will be special U.S. speakers, and our members will provide the musical programme, the accompanist being Miss Theresa Anderson. The new U.S. pamphlet, "Mothers in Mean Streets," by Anna Martin, is to be the first study pamphlet for the club this year, and will be on sale at this meeting. A special collection is to be made for our funds. Light refreshments provided. Will members do all they can to support us?

## MANCHESTER U.S.

Hon. Sec.: Miss Hope Hampson, Onward Buildings, 207, Deansgate

Two more addresses have been given by Dr. Herbert, which were well attended, and followed by an animated discussion. On one occasion the audience overflowed, and a larger room had to be secured. Double the usual number of copies of VOTES have been sold this month, a great many being bought at Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's address to the Women's International League.

## HENDON WOMEN'S FRANCHISE SOCIETY (Affiliated to United Suffragists)

Hon. Sec.: Mrs. McCabe, 49, Bridge Lane, Hendon, N.W.

Three meetings are to be held in November, each of which should prove very interesting. On Friday, November 3, at 2.30 p.m., at 47, Rotherwick Road, H. G. S., by kind invitation of Dr. Alice Drysdale Vickery, Miss Hodge will address a meeting on "Feminism in Canada and South Africa." Discussion will follow, and tea at 4 o'clock. On Monday, November 6, at 8 o'clock (a moonlight evening), Dr. Vickery will read a paper on "The Report of the Birth-rate Commission," and discussion will be invited. This meeting will be held at 1A, Arcade House, corner of Temple Fortune Lane and Finchley Road. The third meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2.30 p.m., at 45, Willfield Way, by kind invitation of Miss Matthews, when Miss Newcomb will speak on "The Women's Movements in New Zealand and Australia." Tea at 4 o'clock. All meetings are open to friends as well as to members, and anyone wishing to attend any of them may be sure of a cordial welcome.

## THE FUND

Subscriptions Received from Sept. 16 to Oct. 14

£ s. d.	£ s. d.
A. E. and M. ... 0 10 0	Miss M. Henderson 0 1 0
Mr. T. T. Anderson 0 2 6	Miss W. Holiday 0 1 0
Mrs. Baillie Weaver 2 0 0	Miss Ihle ..... 0 5 0
Miss M. J. Barrowman 0 5 0	"In Memoriam, J. A. S." ..... 3 3 0
Miss M. Brady... 0 5 0	Mrs. Lodge ..... 0 1 0
Miss M. Brown.. 5 0 0	Mrs. S. M. Marston 1 3 0
Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck 5 0 0	Miss Anna Martin 3 0 0
Mr. H. S. Chatfield 0 8 0	Mrs. McEvoy ... 0 2 6
Collected at Meetings 3 14 6½	Sale of Literature ..... 2 1 2
Miss Dalgleish... 0 2 6	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence 6 10 0
Mrs. de Morgan 0 1 0	Mr. R. H. Pott.. 5 0 0
Miss Kate Ellison 0 5 0	The Misses Prior 2 0 0
Extra on VOTES FOR WOMEN (per Mrs. Masters) ..... 0 5 5	Mrs. Potbury ... 0 2 0
Mrs. Gandell ... 1 10 0	Mrs. Sbarboro... 0 1 0
Dr. L. Garrett Anderson 25 0 0	Miss Schirges ... 0 5 0
Miss Gore Brown 1 0 0	Miss Evelyn Sharp 1 1 0
Mlle. Grillo ..... 0 5 0	Miss A. Somers 1 0 0
	Miss J. R. Walton 0 2 6
	Dr. M. Wilson... 0 1 0
	<b>71 14 1½</b>

## U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB FUND

£ s. d.
Mrs. Cancellor ..... 1 0 0
Mrs. Harben ..... 2 0 0
Per Miss Gackowski ..... 0 9 6
Dr. M. Wilson..... 0 3 0
<b>3 12 6</b>



## COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

## LIGHT SENTENCES

## Assault on a Girl

The *County Herald for Staffs. and Worcestershire* (September 16) reports case of a man charged at Brierley Hill Police Court, before Messrs. J. S. Evans-Swindell and Edwards, with indecently assaulting a girl of twelve.

Sentence: Six months' hard labour.

## Assault on Young Woman

The *Notts. Weekly Express* (August 18) reports case of a landlord of an inn, charged at the Nottingham Shire Hall (Chairman of Bench, Mr. T. S. Birkin) with a violent assault on a young woman formerly employed by him. The evidence showed that she was knocked senseless and probably more seriously assaulted afterwards; this was denied. The Bench decided "unnecessary violence" had been used.

Sentence: Fined 20s. and costs.

## Neglect of Children

The *Western Evening Herald* (August 8) reports case of a sailor's wife charged at Plymouth Police Court, before the Bench, with neglecting her two daughters, aged seven and eight. It was stated that the home was in a dirty and neglected state, that the children were not underfed, but had been seen bringing men to the home, and were living under conditions "detrimental to health."

Sentence: Two months' imprisonment.

## HEAVY SENTENCES

## Forging Military Certificates

The *Manchester Guardian* (October 14) reports case of a music hall artist charged at Lambeth Police Court with forging two medical rejection certificates, which he gave to two men to enable them to arrange their business affairs before being called up.

Sentence: Twelve months' hard labour.

## Stealing Boots

The *Kent Messenger* (October 14) reports case of a labourer aged 60, indicted at the Rochester Quarter Sessions before the Recorder, Mr. Morton W. Smith, with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. He had been previously convicted, and was described as "an old offender."

Sentence: Three years' penal servitude.

## Theft and False Pretences

The *Times* (October 12) reports case of a servant, charged at the Central Criminal Court before the Recorder with a theft of a bracelet and other articles, and with obtaining money by false pretences from three persons who had entrusted children to her care. She had left the children with others, and then deserted them.

Sentence: Five years' penal servitude.

Our Comparison of Punishments once more illustrates our contention that life and the human person are ill-protected in this country, as compared with property. Again we must point out that the practice of dealing summarily with cases of assault, while cases of theft are sent to Assizes or Quarter Sessions, accounts for some of the disparity in the sentences imposed for these two classes of offence. For instance, in the above case of indecent assault on a little girl the Bench gave the longest sentence that could be given in a police court. We see its inadequacy on comparing it with any of the sentences recorded in our right-hand column as given in higher Courts for theft or forgery, though in the case parallel to it double the sentence is imposed for forgery in a Police Court.

Again, the third comparison in our table of punishments shows that for the terrible offence of neglecting children in such a way as to induce them to grow up prostitutes, a woman is dealt with summarily, and receives a sentence of two months' imprisonment; for taking property and only incidentally neglecting children (which was not included in the charge as reported, by the way) a baby farmer is sent to penal servitude for five years.

We think the whole penal system needs revolutionising to such an extent that our object in drawing attention to these cases is not to advocate heavy sentences for any class of crime, but to get the principle established that in any and every reformatory and penal system the first reform to be made is the readjustment of the respective values now attached to property and human life.

## SUPPRIMEZ LA FEMME

The *Manchester Guardian* (September 16) reported the case of a linotype operator, the father of six children, who claimed exemption before the Morecambe Tribunal on the ground that he was doing more good by staying in his present occupation and looking after the proper training of his numerous family, than by going

away. The following dialogue is reported to have taken place:—

The Mayor: "Have you stopped at this number?"

The Applicant: "I hope so."

The Mayor: "It is of national importance, you know."

The Applicant: "I would make no promise of increasing the number with the idea of getting exemption."

"Conditional exemption," concludes the report, "was granted." Conditional of what, we would like to know? Of his increasing the number of his family? And then some people wonder that women wish to be represented on the Tribunals! But we must admit that the above dialogue would lead anyone on the Tribunal to suppose that the six children had never had a mother—which reminds us further of the minister who, preaching on the way that great events spring from small beginnings, cried enthusiastically: "Did you ever reflect that a single man was the father of the human race?" We had always supposed that the moral of the story to which he referred was "Cherchez la femme!" Apparently it should be that of the Morecambe Tribunal—"Supprimez la femme!"

## "GOOD CHARACTER"

We have often had occasion to remark on the tendency of the Courts to take into consideration the former good character of an offender against morals, but rarely to do so when the offender had committed theft or forgery. It is therefore pleasing to note that a special constable, convicted of stealing potatoes at Folkestone (his defence was that he did it as an object-lesson to the owner who had left them lying about), was bound over by the magistrate "in consideration of fifty years' good character." (*Times*, September 19.)

Similarly, at Lambeth Police Court, on September 12, it was represented in the case of two women who were charged with stealing a long list of articles, including a whole lamb from a butcher's shop, that nothing was known against them. This led, we imagine (by analogy with what usually happens in such cases) to their being dealt with summarily and sentenced to six months' hard labour—a long sentence in comparison with the small fines or trifling sentences often given to men who assault children, but at the same time a more lenient one than is generally imposed for crimes against property.

## PRESS VIEWS OF THE SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE

## Pall Mall Gazette (Oct. 11)

The personnel of the Electoral Reform Conference is announced to-day, and the selections will be generally approved. . . . We shall see whether the plain M.P. has a higher sense of the public interest in these respects than those who sit on the front benches. He has, at any rate, a real opportunity of proving it.

## Evening Standard (Oct. 11)

It is to be hoped that the Conference will approach its task in a broadly democratic spirit, recognising that there can be no half-way house between a few niggling changes and an entirely new conception.

## Manchester Guardian (Oct. 13)

The representative Committee, or "Conference" as it is called . . . marks the beginning of a great impending change. . . . It is a momentous business. Two vital questions stand out: the inclusion of women in the roll of voters, thus for the first time giving to half the nation its too-long-delayed share in the control of legislation and of policy; and the introduction of new machinery with the object of making the House of Commons more truly representative—that is, for enabling minorities to be in some degree at least represented in Parliament in proportion to their strength in the country, and making the House of Commons more nearly a true reflection of the nation.

## Christian Commonwealth (Oct. 18)

The constitution of the Conference and the scope of its reference prove the importance of the task which has been entrusted to it. Our electoral system is in the melting pot. . . . And we do not fear that in discussing the question of electoral reform in its widest aspects the claims of the women will be accidentally overlooked!

## Daily Mail (Oct. 12)

At the Round Table Conference which is to meet to-day . . . the question of votes for women will have to be discussed. The old argument against giving women the franchise was that they were useless in war. But we could not carry on the war without them. They are running many of our industries; and in the field their services may justly be compared with those of the soldier.

## Evening News (Oct. 12)

The issues on which the nation is called upon to decide are high politics indeed—something very far above the ordinary wranglings of the professional politicians; and if there can be a more determined spirit than that of our men it will be found among our women. If in the hands which have wrought for us so bravely and so tenderly there is placed this new weapon of political power we may be assured that it will be used wisely and well.

## The Herald (Oct. 17)

We trust our readers will follow the proceedings of this Committee very carefully. There must be no division in our ranks. We must all support the demand that soldiers and sailors shall have votes and all the rights of full citizenship, and in like manner we must all support the claim of all women and all men who are serving the nation by munition-making and housekeeping at home to similar rights. In fact, we must unite in one solid appeal for votes and citizen rights for all men and women who reach the age of twenty-one.

## Glasgow Herald (Oct. 4)

No one will deny that it would be an inestimable boon to the country if out of the Conference there emerged an agreed scheme which will revise and improve our electoral system, sweep away all the anomalies which

now disfigure it, and give us a machine better suited than the existing arrangement to our modern needs and circumstances. The hour is apt and ripe for a settlement. Men of all parties ought to see to it that the opportunity it offers is not allowed to escape.

## Aberdeen Free Press (Oct. 6)

There will be no opposition to the present proposal, for everyone recognises that a complete and drastic democratisation of the franchise is necessary, and it is of urgent importance that it should be effected. The difficulties in the path are obvious. Woman's suffrage, for instance, raises many questions of practical detail, apart from the principle upon which there is now far less controversy than there was two years ago. But the difficulties must be overcome. The country cannot sit down and do nothing merely because of the obstacles in the path.

## Bristol Times and Mirror (Oct. 7)

Whether agreement can be reached is doubtful, but clearly no Reform Bill can hope to pass Parliament at the present moment unless it is virtually an agreed measure. Nevertheless, there is a strong desire that a new and representative House of Commons should be brought into existence before peace terms have to be discussed.

## The Scotsman (Oct. 7)

While it would be impossible to find a Committee whose members had not committed themselves on the questions to be discussed, it should have been possible to form a Conference of men with views in a more pliable condition, and more capable of being moulded into a common form.

## Aberdeen Daily Journal (Oct. 6)

It has been said that if alterations of this magnitude were made in the franchise, the claims of women could not be ignored. After all, is that a matter about which the country ought to be frightened? . . . If the Conference sets to work in the right way it ought not to be impossible to produce a scheme which would prove generally acceptable.

## Northern Echo (Oct. 7)

The names which have been suggested for the Conference under the Speaker's chairmanship on electoral reform represent many shades of thought upon franchise questions. Officially nothing appears to be said yet about women and the franchise, but of course that topic must come up in any proposal for electoral reform.

## World's Work (Oct.)

There is little doubt that sooner or later we shall have adult suffrage, with an equal vote for women.

## The Challenge (Oct. 20)

If, however, the whole question is to come under review, it is absolutely essential that the question of Women's Suffrage should be raised along with it, and there is no reasonable stopping place short of complete adult suffrage.

## COMING EVENTS

A Recital of Fairy Tales by Miss Raleigh, with Folk Songs by Miss Anne Squire, will be given at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford Street, Strand, on Sunday, November 5, at 4 p.m. (Women's Freedom League Offices, 144, High Holborn, W.C.)

Lectures will be given at the International Women's Franchise Club at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8, and subsequent Wednesdays in November. (See back page of this issue.)

The Women's Freedom League announce a Green, White and Gold Fair to be held at the Caxton Hall on November 24 and 25, from 3–9.30 p.m. Admission 1s., after 5 o'clock 6d. For other W.F.L. fixtures see back page of this issue.

For United Suffragists' fixtures, see p. 211.



## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**AN IMPORTANT SERIES** of LECTURES will be given at "The Aquarian Bureau," 144, High Holborn, W.C. (top floor), Mondays, 5.30 p.m., in November and December. Miss Abadam on "The Greater Feminine," Mrs. F. E. Smith on "The Future of Sex in the New Age." Admission free; silver collection. Syllabus and particulars Hon. Sec. Aquarian Bureau. All earnest feminists are urged to attend these lectures, that they may better understand the true inner significance of their Cause.

**A RECITAL OF FAIRY TALES**, Old and New, by Miss Raleigh, with Folk Songs by Miss Anne Squire, will be given at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C., on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 4 p.m. Tickets, 1s. and 6d., from the Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Tea can be obtained in the theatre from 3.15.

**THE** following LECTURES will be given at the International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, at 8 p.m. during November. Nov. 8, "The Khaki Woman," by Mrs. Charles Beatty; Nov. 15, "Some Confessions of a Dramatic Critic," by Mr. J. T. Grein; Nov. 22, "Women in Industry," by Mr. George Lansbury; Nov. 29, "Women and the Church," by the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Kensington. (For conditions of Club membership, see page 211.)

**THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE** holds Public Meetings at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday afternoons at 3 o'clock. Speakers Nov. 1, Mrs. Zangwill and Mrs. Corner; Nov. 8, Miss Margaret Hodge and Miss Underwood; Nov. 15, the Rev. Hugh Chapman and Mrs. Despard; Nov. 22, Mr. Cameron Grant and Mrs. Mustard. Admission free.

## LAUNDRY.

**A MODEL LAUNDRY.**—Family work a speciality. Dainty fabrics of every description treated with special care. Flannels and silks washed in distilled water. No chemicals used. Best labour only employed. Prompt collection; prompt deliveries.—Bullens, Cressy House Laundry, Reynolds Road, Acton Green, W.

## JEWELLERY.

**WHY KEEP USELESS JEWELLERY?** The large London market enables Robinson Brothers, of 5, Hampstead Road, London, W., and 127, Fenchurch Street, E.C., to give the best prices for Gold, Silver, Platinum, Diamonds, Pearls, Emeralds, Silver Plate, Antiques, Old Teeth, &c., in any form, condition, or quantity. Licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone 2036 Museum. All parcels, offer or cash by return of post.

## BOARD RESIDENCE, Etc.

**BRIGHTON. — TITCHFIELD HOUSE**, 21, Upper Rock Gardens, off Marine Parade. Good table, congenial society. Terms from 30s.—Mrs. Gray, W.S.P.U.

**BRIGHTON** for Winter Holidays; comfortable board-residence at Sea View, Victoria Road; Nat. Tel. 1702; 23s. to 31s. 6d.; ordinary or reform diet; home-made bread.—Hostess, Miss Turner.

## EDUCATIONAL

**ADA MOORE.**—Lessons in Singing, Voice Production, Diction. Visits Brighton, Winchester weekly; West End Studio.—153, Elm Park Mansions, Park Walk, London, S.W.

**MODERN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**, Letchworth.—Principal, Miss Cartwright, M.A.; staff includes specialists and University graduates; pupils prepared for professional entrance examinations; bracing moorland air; home comforts.

**MRS. MARY LAYTON, F.R.C.O.** Voice Culture for Singers and Speakers. Private Lessons in Singing. Singing Classes and Ladies' Choir.—"The Chalet," 2, Fulham Park Road, S.W.

## PROFESSIONAL

**"MORE MONEY TO SPEND"** (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment). Send postcard for this booklet to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 3, Kingsway. Phone, Central 6049.

## BOOKS

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